Infant Mortality Rate

2234. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study to find out the reasons for increase in infant mortality in the country;

(b) if so, the facts revealed from the study;

(c) the steps taken to reduce infant mortality from the country; and

(d) the situation in that regard in every State during last three years, together with the strategies adopted to check mortality rate in those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) There has been no significant increase in the infant Mortality Rate. As per the Sample Registration System the Infant Mortality Rate during 1996, 1997 and 1998 was estimated to be 72, 71 and 72 per thousand live births respectively. The Registrar General of India conducts the Survey of Causes of Death (Rural). As per the Survey in 1996, prematurity, pneumonia, respiratory infection of the newborn and diarrhoea of newborn were the major causes of infant mortality. Estimates of the infant mortality rate for India and the major States for the last three years for which data is available are given in annexed statement *(See* below)

The measures to check infant mortality include provision of immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, facilities for essential newborn care and appropriate management of cases of acute respiratory infections and diarrhoeal diseases and promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices. These interventions are implemented in all States/Union Territories under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme.

A UNICEF supported project called the Boarder District Cluster Strategy has been launched in 47 districts of 16 States to introduce local specific strategies to reduce the infant mortality rate to half of

existing levels within the next 2-3 years. Additional inputs are being provided to improve accessibility to Reproductive and Child Health Services in the under served districts of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, West Bengal, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh.

Statement

Infant Mortality Rates for India and Bigger States

	1996	1997	1998
India*	72	71	72
Andhra Pradesh	65	63	66
Assam	74	76	76
Bihar	76	71	67
Gujarat	61	62	64
Haryana	68	68	70
Himachal Pradesh	63	62	68
Jammu & Kashmir	Not available		45
Karnataka	53	53	58
Kerala	14	12	16
Madhya Pradesh	97	94	98
Maharashtra	48	47	49
Orissa	96	96	98
Punjab	51	51	54
Rajasthan	85	85	83
Tamil Nadu	53	53	53
Uttar Pradesh	85	85	85
West Bengal	55	55	53

*Exclude Jammu & Kashmir
*Source: Sample Registration System.